



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 7, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement For Improving Access To Cottage Hospital - Las Positas/Mission Project Study Report

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Review the Las Positas/Mission Project Circulation Options Report (Options Report);
- B. Support the Planning Commission (PC) and Transportation and Circulation Committee (TCC) recommendations on the selected transportation improvements that are to be included in the Project Study Report (PSR);
- C. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement with IBI Group (IBI) in the amount of \$192,886 for professional services for the PSR to improve access to Cottage Hospital, and approve expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$12,114 for extra services that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work; and
- D. Provide direction regarding the Options Report's local street improvement recommendations, and whether to include them in the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2008, the City released a Request for Proposals for the Las Positas/Mission Circulation Options for Improving Access to Cottage Hospital Project. Proposals were received from three firms. On August 5, 2008, Council authorized a Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$109,997, with IBI, to develop circulation options to improve access to Cottage Hospital. The Options Report identifies a number of solutions to improve vehicle access to and from the hospital, as well as local street improvement recommendations. Staff is now returning to Council with the Options Report and a request for authorization to proceed with a contract to develop a PSR for the preferred option.

DISCUSSION:

The area surrounding Cottage Hospital experiences some of the highest levels of traffic congestion in the City. The Las Positas Road/Highway 101 and Mission Street/

Highway 101 interchanges, which serve as the primary access routes between Highway 101 and Cottage Hospital, are congested and impact hospital access and local resident mobility. The Options Report originated as a condition of approval for the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Seismic Compliance and Modernization Project, which required Cottage Hospital to provide \$250,000 towards the funding of a PSR to identify access improvements to the hospital.

The major capacity limitation for Cottage Hospital is the lack of access from Highway 101 via the Las Positas Road Interchange. In 1989, Caltrans converted Calle Real between Treasure Drive and Las Positas Road, to a one-way street to accommodate a northbound off-ramp reconfiguration. Consequently, the demand to use the Mission Street interchange increased substantially, creating higher congestion levels. Additionally, the one way conversion of Calle Real diverted many Cottage Hospital related trips through the Samarkand neighborhood via Tallant Road.

OPTIONS REPORT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INPUT

At the August 5, 2008 Council meeting, staff proposed a two-part process to fulfill the PSR requirement. Phase I was the development of an Options Report, which is available at the City Clerk's Office and on the City's website at: http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Departments/PW/transplan_main.htm (Select "Programs and Documents"). This phase also included a public input and stakeholder process to reduce the number of options down to the most cost effective improvements, and to make sure that Caltrans could support the improvements in the formal PSR process. The PSR will be drafted in Phase II for Caltrans' approval, including only the options that were developed through the public input and stakeholder process.

Public outreach and stakeholder involvement has included two public workshops, three joint PC and TCC hearings, and several meetings with Caltrans, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), and Cottage Hospital executive staff.

Based on community input, the Options Report looked at three freeway access capacity alternatives as well as a number of complementing local roadways. On June 11, 2009, the PC and the TCC reviewed the Options Report and recommended to Council that the PSR study the following project options:

1. Replace the existing Las Positas Road northbound ramp with a hook off-ramp ending at Earl Warren Showgrounds (Alternative 2B) or the alternative option that was identified as a new hook off-ramp ending between Bettie and Leslie Drives (Sub-Alternative).
2. Widen the southbound Highway 101 off-ramp to Las Positas Road.
3. Widen the Las Positas Road/Calle Real intersection.

Staff is requesting that Council support the PC and TCC recommendations.

PROJECT STUDY REPORT CONTRACT

In order to proceed with implementation of the Options Report recommendations, staff is seeking Council authorization to proceed with the contract for the PSR. The PSR must be completed before a project can be considered for funding through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), or approved by Caltrans if the project is to be funded by other sources. Transportation staff has been pleased with IBI's knowledge of the PSR process, public and stakeholder involvement, and traffic modeling analysis and multi-modal transportation design, and recommends continuing with them for the PSR. IBI was chosen for the Phase I work through a competitive process.

LOCAL STREET IMPROVEMENTS

A list of potential local street improvements (including street, bicycle, and pedestrian enhancements) was generated by neighborhood participants in Phase I of the project and is included in the Options Report. The PC and TCC requested that staff report back to them in six months on how these improvements might be prioritized since they would not be included in the PSR phase. Staff will update the neighborhood, the PC, and the TCC once Council gives direction. The recommendation from PC and TCC included:

1. Two-way traffic on De la Vina Street between Constance and Pueblo Streets
2. Traffic signal modifications on Mission Street at Castillo and Bath Streets
3. A Commuter Rail Station near Las Positas Road and Mission Street
4. Extending Class II Bike Lanes on Castillo and Bath Streets (Could be accomplished by making the traffic lanes one way or by eliminating parking on one side of the street)

The local recommendations are generally pieces of broader community conversations, such as: one way versus two way streets, the City Intersection Improvement Plan, Commuter Rail, and the Bicycle Master Plan. Therefore, staff is not proposing to move forward with any of the local improvements at this time unless supported by Council. If Council wishes to move forward with any one of the local improvements, a conceptual design for the improvement could be included in the Capital Improvement Budget.

DELAY IN OPTIONS REPORT AND PROJECT STUDY REPORT

The Options Report and contract award of the PSR has been deferred until now because of SBCAG and Caltrans delays. The City had to wait approximately seven months before the SBCAG Board directed their Executive Director to sign the Project Initiation Document (PID), which is a requirement before a PSR can be prepared. After the City submitted the PID to Caltrans, they sent the City a letter stating that they could not work on the PSR until Fiscal Year 2011, which translated to another three to four-month delay. By the time IBI completes its work on the PSR, Caltrans should have the staff resources to review the report. However, Caltrans staff resources continue to be limited and this could continue to delay the PSR review process.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

A Planning Commission condition of approval for Cottage Hospital's Seismic Compliance and Modernization Project required Cottage Hospital to provide \$250,000 towards the funding of a PSR. Cottage Hospital has funded \$110,000 for the preparation of the Options Report and will fund an additional \$140,000 for the completion of a PSR. The remaining \$65,000 will come out of the Fiscal Year 2011 Streets Capital Fund.

The Improving Access to Cottage Hospital – Las Positas/Mission Circulation Options Report can be viewed at the City Clerk's Office, or online at http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Departments/PW/transplan_main.htm (Select "Programs and Documents").

PREPARED BY: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager/JG/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office